SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vard Johnson.

CLERK: Senator, this is your amendment on page 1164,
Request 2086.

SENATOR V.   JOHNSON: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I am just a
hair slow. The amendment that I am offering is a very
responsible amendment to LB 470.   What it does simply
speaking is it defines for the first time in the statutes
who is a dental assistant and a dental assistant, as you may
know, is an individual who works with a dentist. They are
not licensed as the dental hygienist but rather they work
with the dentist and they assist in the preparation of some
of the drugs that are administered. They attend the needs
of the dentist and the like.   For the last several years, I
along with other Senators have carried legislation for
dental assistants to the Public Health and Welfare Committee
and the legislation that I have carried has been legislation
that would have established kind of a recognition procedure
for dental assistants.   The Public Health and Welfare
Committee has never seen fit to advance that particular
legislation to the floor.   So one of the things that the
dental assistants have said recently, and I have concurred
with, and I think even the Public Health and Welfare
Committee has concurred with, is the need to make certain
that they are recognized statutorily as health care
professionals. And all this amendment does is that for the
first time defines who is and who is not a dental assistant.
It puts them in the statutes, so to speak, and it is an
important first step for the kind of recognition that the
dental assistants who have worked so laboriously with
dentists for so many years deserve and need.   This should
not adversely affect LB 470.   It should be a responsible
change to the bill and I would move the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Pappas.

SENATOR PAPPAS: Mr. Speaker, colleagues, I would oppose
these amendments.   These are not responsible amendments as
Senator Johnson has indicated.   They are basically parts of
bills that he couldn't pass or get out of committee or pass
someplace else so he is trying to tack them on here now and